

FLORIDA

SUMMER 2005

History & the Arts

A MAGAZINE OF FLORIDA'S HERITAGE

MID-CENTURY MODERN

DOWNTOWN HOLLYWOOD • THE MORIKAMI MUSEUM AND JAPANESE GARDENS
SOUTHEAST ASIAN TRADITIONAL ARTISTS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

FOCUS ON

■ CULTURE BUILDS FLORIDA'S FUTURE ■

Earlier this year, a national study, commissioned by The Wallace Foundation and conducted by the Rand Corporation, determined that the broad range of benefits that the arts provide to individuals can be sustained and enhanced by strengthening public appreciation of the arts. The study, "Gifts of the Muse" says the key to spreading the benefits of the arts is to help greater numbers of Americans to have engaging arts experiences through sustained and deep involvement. Among the benefits of exposure to the arts, the study cited sharpened learning skills among young people, expanded capacity for empathy, and stronger social bonds in communities. (The report may be found at www.wallacefoundation.org/WF/KnowledgeCenter/)

It is my goal, as Florida's Chief Cultural Officer, to educate Floridians on the important linkage between the cultural arts and economic development. As I travel throughout the state today, I see how the arts contribute to the vibrancy and development of our economy. Throughout Florida, there is evidence that the arts serve as a catalyst for community and economic development, and that they foster opportunities to explore, expand, and transform the ways in which we understand and cultivate relationships.

In this issue, Sibille Pritchard, chair of the Florida Arts Council, outlines our new statewide campaign, "Culture Builds Florida's Future." This campaign is the result of a year long visioning project conducted by the Florida Department of State, Florida Arts Council, and Partners for Livable Communities to bring business, government, and arts leaders together to develop a 10-year cultural plan for our state.

I encourage you to include Florida's capital city in your summer travel plans with a visit to the Museum of Florida History, and the newly dedicated Florida World War II Monument, on the south lawn of the R.A.Gray building, headquarters of the Florida Department of State. The State of Florida recently dedicated this impressive monument in Tallahassee on the 61st anniversary of D-Day.

Florida's World War II Monument honors the sacrifices made by the 248,000 Floridians who served in uniform, and the 330,000 World War II veterans who now call Florida home. Inside the Museum of Florida History, the permanent exhibit, *Florida Remembers World War II*, chronicles Florida's participation in the war, with nearly 200 artifacts and an interactive kiosk featuring first-hand accounts of Floridians at home and on the battlefield during World War II.



Glenda E. Hood

Glenda E. Hood
Secretary of State

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By John O'Connor and Diane G. Smart

Appreciation for mid-century modern architecture is growing throughout the nation. In South Florida today, many spectacular examples of the style still exist, but are threatened with demolition as land values continue to soar.

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By Michelle Brown

The memory of Florida's early 20th-century Yamato Colony is honored in Palm Beach County, thanks to the generous gift of George Sukeji Morikami. Visitors to the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens can enjoy the serenity of the gardens and participate in Japanese traditions and celebrations year-round.

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With small town ambiance and historic architecture, downtown Hollywood offers a blend of the chic and unique, and exemplifies the new VISIT FLORIDA *Downtowns & Small Towns* concept.

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By Tina Bucuvalas

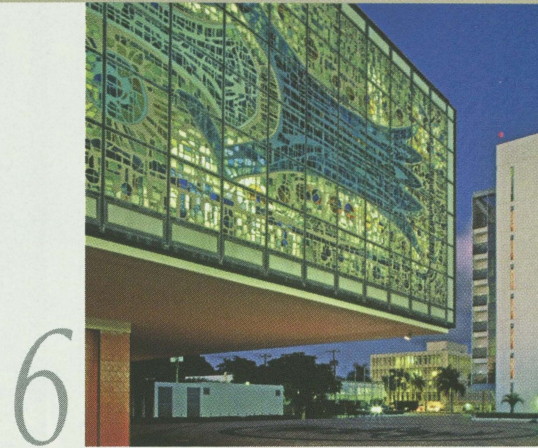
Central Florida is home to a growing population of Southeast Asian communities. Meet some of the talented Vietnamese, Laotian and Thai artists who practice their creative and colorful traditions.

DEPARTMENTS

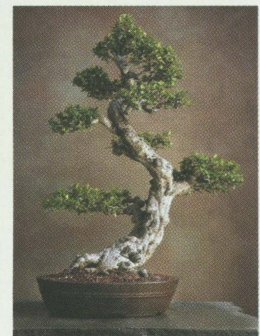
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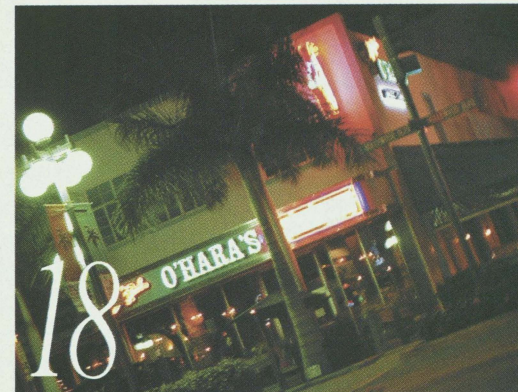
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ON THE COVER: Ireland's Inn, Fort Lauderdale. Photo by Robin Hill © 2005.

FLORIDA
IN MY VIEW
FLORIDA
History & the Arts

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■ SIBILLE PRITCHARD ■

In November 2003, the Florida Arts Council, Florida Department of State, and Partners for Livable Communities embarked on a year-long visioning project bringing together business, government, and arts leaders to initiate the development of a ten-year cultural plan for our state. Last summer public meetings were held in Jacksonville, Tampa,



Orlando, and Miami to share ideas and discuss the positive impacts of arts and culture. Business people, architects, planners, realtors, artists, politicians, professors, arts council members, and other interested citizens met to recommend ways in which arts and cultural organizations can work toward meeting four significant goals aimed at building Florida's future. The goals are: strengthening the economy; learning and wellness; design and development; and leadership. Bank of America demonstrated their commitment to Florida's communities by providing funding support for this important project.

As a result, this April, Florida's First Lady Columba Bush, Secretary of State Glenda E. Hood, Department of Health Secretary John Agwunobi, Department of Education Commissioner John Winn, Department of Elder Affairs Secretary Carole Green, and Department of Community Affairs Secretary Thaddeus Cohen, gathered in the House chambers of the Old Capitol to kick off the statewide campaign, *Culture Builds Florida's Future*. Mrs. Bush spoke to the role that arts play in defining our cultural heritage, noting that, "Through art, we celebrate our history, our diversity and our humanity." Agency leaders discussed the importance of the arts to their constituencies. Secretary Green described how arts programs enhance the lives of Florida seniors, and Commissioner Winn emphasized the importance of arts education in Florida schools. Secretary Cohen outlined how cultural arts enrich Florida communities by attracting tourism and encouraging historic preservation, and Dr. Agwunobi noted that, "Before medicine was a science, it was an art," recognizing the origins of traditional medicine and its role in early communities.

Secretary of State Glenda Hood thanked the First Lady and agency leaders for their extraordinary commitment to the new cultural strategic plan, noting that each of us shares the responsibility to be advocates for economic development in Florida. As chair of the Florida Arts Council, it has been my great pleasure to work with Florida's citizens, educators, business and community leaders in this project to provide a cultural plan for our state. I invite you to join us in our efforts. Information about *Culture Builds Florida's Future* may be found at www.Florida-Arts.org.

SIBILLE PRITCHARD is vice president of the Brooksville Development Corporation, and current president of the Association to Preserve the Eatonville Community, Inc. and the Zora Neale Hurston Festival. She is a commissioner for the Seminole County Housing Authority, and a board member of the United Arts of Central Florida, Orlando Ballet, Florida Chamber of Commerce and the Florida State University Medical School Community Board.

NEWS & NOTES

Movin' On Miccosukee Heritage Sculpture Dedicated in Tallahassee

The opening event of Florida Heritage Month 2005 took place the morning of March 15 in Tallahassee, when Secretary of State Glenda E. Hood, Florida Supreme Court Justice Harry Lee Anstead and Miccosukee Tribe Chairman Billy Cypress welcomed the public to the dedication of the first of four groups of life-sized bronze figural sculptures, installed on the grounds of the R.A. Gray building, headquarters of the Florida Department of State in Tallahassee. Funded by the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, and produced by the team of Bradley Cooley and Bradley Cooley, Jr. of Lamont, the sculpture, *Movin' On*, depicts a Miccosukee family of the 1930s. The completed tableau of four sculpture groups will depict native Floridians from different historical eras.



ROY LETT



COURTESY WCI COMMUNITIES, INC.

AL HOFFMAN 2005 GREAT FLORIDIAN

Al Hoffman, founder and Chairman of the Board of WCI Communities, Inc. received the designation of 2005 Great Floridian from Secretary of State Glenda E. Hood at the Florida Heritage Month Gala in April. The Great Floridians award is presented in recognition of outstanding achievements by an individual who has made major contributions to the progress and welfare of this state. In presenting the award, Secretary Hood said of Hoffman, "His accomplishments and contributions to cultural and educational communities throughout Florida have enhanced the quality of life for all Floridians, and contributed significantly to the prosperity and heritage of our great state."

Hoffman's involvement with Florida education, arts, and business span many years and include his tenure as Chairman of the Florida Education Foundation and Chairman of the Florida Council on Economic Education. He is a founding Chairman of Clearwater's Ruth Eckerd Hall, and has served as trustee of the Florida Arts Council, vice-chair of the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, board member of the Florida Orchestra, founding director of the Council for Educational Change and on the board of the Florida Chamber of Commerce. From 2001 to 2003, he served as chairman of the Florida Council of 100, a forum of strategic thinkers comprised of the state's top business leaders.

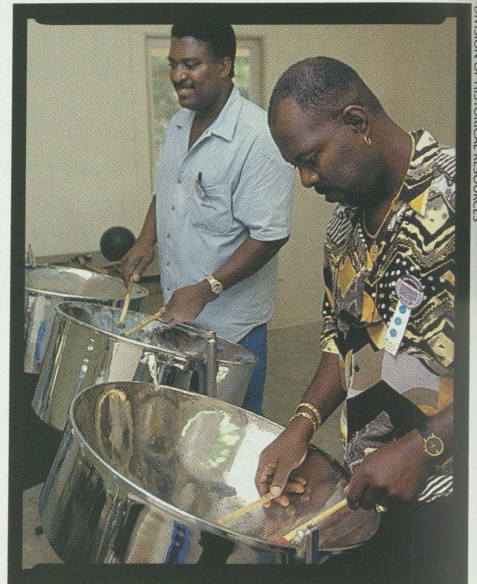
NEWS & NOTES

Florida's 2005 Folk Heritage Award Winners

MICHAEL KERNAHAN from Miami, WAYNE MARTIN from Blountstown, and RUBY C. WILLIAMS from Bealsville received the 2005 Florida Folk Heritage Awards, presented by Secretary of State Glenda E. Hood in ceremonies at the Florida Heritage Month Gala in April. The Florida Department of State presents Florida Folk Heritage Awards to citizens whose lifelong devotion to folk arts has enriched the state's cultural legacy. Like the National Heritage

Awards, Florida Folk Heritage Awards honor Florida's most significant and influential tradition bearers for authenticity, excellence and significance within the traditional arts.

Trinidadian instrument maker and musician Michael Kernahan started his career as a panman, or steel drum player, with the renowned Tripoli band. After establishing the 21st Century Steelband in Michigan, he relocated to Miami in the mid-80s where he continues to perform and devotes time to tuning for bands and individuals in south Florida, Chicago, Mississippi, and the Caribbean basin. Kernahan has twice served as a master artist in the Florida Folklife Apprenticeship Programs, and is a key advocate for Florida steelbands in the Miami Carnival.



(L to R) MICHAEL KERNAHAN, MICHAEL PHILLIPS



WAYNE MARTIN

RUBY C. WILLIAMS



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA FOLKLINE

Wayne Martin of Blountstown is a traditional musician and folklife advocate. He is a highly regarded master fiddler who studied with renowned Florida fiddler George Custer. Martin helped establish the Florida State Fiddlers Association and was instrumental in the designation of the Florida Folk Festival's annual fiddle contest as the official state contest. He has served on the Florida Folklife Council and on the board of directors of the Will McLean Foundation. Martin collects traditional and historical stories about Calhoun County, and is highly regarded as a storyteller.

Ruby C. Williams, a native of the historic African American town of Bealsville in Hillsborough County, is known for her brightly painted folk art. Her art stands alongside fruits and vegetables at the self-built market on her property. To make her small farm successful, she opened a produce stand and painted signs to attract visitors. While her work is in private collections and galleries all over the world, she remains as interested in selling produce as in selling art. Williams is one of six self-taught artists whose work was featured in the Smithsonian Anacostia Museum exhibit, "On Their Own: Selected Works by Self-Taught African American Artists."



F. BLAIR REEVES

Citizens Recognized for Preservation of Florida's History

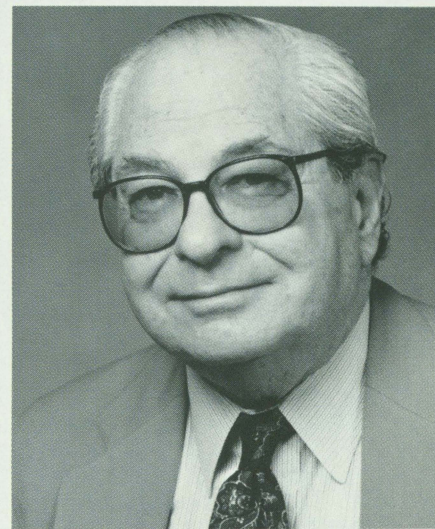
At ceremonies in April during Historic Preservation Days in Tallahassee, Secretary of State Glenda E. Hood recognized two Florida citizens for their extraordinary efforts and accomplishments in the field of historic preservation.

The *Senator Bob Williams Award* was presented to F. Blair Reeves in recognition of his lifelong dedication and contributions to the preservation of Florida's architectural heritage. Reeves, professor

emeritus of the University of Florida, is a highly respected registered architect and consultant specializing in architectural education and preservation. He is founder and director of the graduate program in architectural preservation at the University of Florida, and the Research and Education Center for Architectural Preservation, sponsoring integrated preservation courses in law, architecture, engineering, planning and other disciplines. In 1990 he received the AIA Presidential Citation, and in 1994 the Beinecke-Reeves Distinguished Chair in Architectural Preservation was established at the University of Florida.

The *Mary Call Darby Collins Award* was presented, posthumously, to Arnold Greenfield, in recognition of his dedication to the preservation of Florida's historical resources. Greenfield was born in Chicago, Illinois but raised in Miami from age nine. With a passion for Florida's past, Greenfield devoted countless volunteer hours and considerable expertise, providing leadership and support to numerous preservation organizations and committees. Greenfield served as former chairman of the Florida Historic Preservation Advisory Council and former president of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and, at the time of his death last August, was serving on the Florida Trust Board of Directors. In 1996-97, Greenfield received the Junior League of Miami Service Award. Greenfield had also served as trustee of the Foundation for Villa Vizcaya, member of the Board of Trustees for the Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota and board member of the Bonnet House Museum in Fort Lauderdale.

ARNOLD GREENFIELD



FLORIDA GATHERING TO EXPLORE CEDAR KEY



VISIT FLORIDA

The Florida Humanities Council (FHC) will explore the historic town of Cedar Key during a Florida Gathering scheduled for November 4 to 6. Surrounded by the Cedar Key National Wildlife Refuge, Cedar Key was once a booming port town at the end of a cross-peninsula railroad line that began in Fernandina Beach. Today this picturesque town is a haven for artists and writers who find the unspoiled environment and seaside village an inspiration for their work.

Activities in Cedar Key will include a historic walking tour, a narrated boat ride, a visit to an ancient Indian mound, a pre-Gathering kayak trip, and meals at local seafood restaurants. Presenters include University of Florida historian Jack Davis, co-editor of the forthcoming book *Paradise Lost? An Environmental History of Florida*.

The Florida Gathering is a cultural tourism program of FHC that conducts scholar-led explorations of the history and heritage of Florida communities. Registration is open to the public. For more information, contact Monica Rowland at 727.553.3803 or mrowland@flahum.org or visit www.flahum.org.

MID-CENTURY MODERN

BY JOHN O'CONNOR AND DIANE G. SMART • PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROBIN HILL © 2005



ARCHITECTURE

THE NEW SHAPE OF MOTION



Mid-Century Modern is a post-World War II architectural phenomenon that flourished from 1945 until 1972 in many parts of the United States. Most notably it thrived in Las Vegas, Nevada and Palm Springs, California, along Route 66 in the Southwest, in Wildwood, New Jersey, and in South Florida's Miami Beach, Hollywood and Fort Lauderdale. Its architectural vernacular reflects visual glamour, space age optimism, and the freedom of the winged automobile to race along interstate highways that were beginning to crisscross the nation. Society was open to spontaneity, portability, informality and flexibility.

Populuxe (Alfred A. Knopf, 1987) author Thomas Hine, wrote that, "The 'new shape of motion'...referred to a new visual vocabulary, inspired by the jet and the rocket, that would manifest itself not only in automobiles but in home appliances, lampshades, fabric patterns, roadside architecture and almost everything else. • This was a time that truly believed in the future. The imagery of the jet plane, which merged with that of the rocket and the conquest of space, had a strong hold on the public imagination. • Cities exploded outward from their centers and filled great swatches of landscape. Inside houses, walls disappeared and what had been rooms became ill-defined 'dining areas, living areas' separated by barriers that were meant to be insubstantial. • Color, portability, and dynamic styling went hand-in-hand."



BACARDI USA BUILDING, MIAMI

THE NEW SHAPE OF MOTION



SOUTH FLORIDA

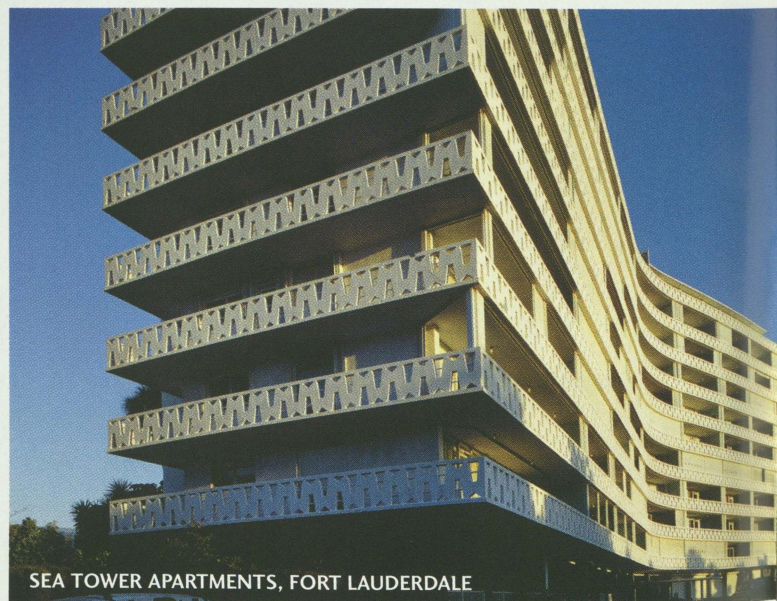
Fort Lauderdale was a post-war baby. Unlike Miami Beach, its neighbor 23 miles to the south, which had its first real boom in the Deco decade of the 30s, Lauderdale and neighboring Hollywood had their coming out parties 15 to 20 years later. As America's love affair with the auto kicked into high gear, much of Florida grabbed onto the dream of mobility. The drive-in restaurant was born, the carport came into vogue, and the place to stay became the motor-hotel. In Florida, modern architecture took its cues from International Style Modernism, but injected it with tropical style. Mid-Century Modern architecture became a celebration of modern life in the tropics. Instead of the post-war rectilinear box often found in northern states, that same structure in "SoFla" might be stretched into an S-shaped building with protruding "eyebrows" above the windows and then be painted shell pink. Suddenly, modern architecture had an indoor *and* outdoor life.

Celebrating new ways to manipulate materials, mainly steel-reinforced concrete, architects spread their wings and made the International Style fly. Staircases were pushed to the exterior of sunny Florida buildings and became plastic, able to span long stretches with very little visible support. Mid-century architects reveled in this "because we can" mentality and created works of art which completed their buildings like beautiful jewelry, — ornamentation without the ornament — enlivening the strict lines of Modernist architecture with cantilevered, space-age canopies, gull-winged rooflines and floor-to-ceiling glass windows.

These buildings, from an era just before "central air" became household words, often went to great lengths to capture tropical breezes for their occupants. Igor Polevitzky's fabulous Fort Lauderdale confection, the Sea Tower (1957), is shaped like a boomerang and angled to collect the breeze from the ocean 400 feet away. It is also one of the many catwalk buildings of the area. All units open onto a long walkway and allow breezes to blow through from east to west.



These buildings often went to great lengths to capture tropical breezes for their occupants.



SEA TOWER APARTMENTS, FORT LAUDERDALE



PHILLIPS PIER 66 HOTEL NOW HYATT REGENCY, FORT LAUDERDALE

lengths to capture tropical breezes for their occupants



BIRCH TOWER, FORT LAUDERDALE

EXAMPLES OF SOUTH FLORIDA MID-CENTURY MODERN VERNACULAR AND IMAGERY

Boomerangs in coffee-table tops, Calder mobiles, the parabolic line of the butterfly chair, delta wing aircraft automobile tailfins and the parabolic arch: Marina Motor Inn, Fort Lauderdale Beach

Cantilevered butterfly roof: Marina Motor Inn, Fort Lauderdale and North Beach Miami Bandstand

Ornamental masonry screens: Union Planters Bank Building, North Beach, Miami

Brise-soleil, fixed or movable fins or louvres designed to block sun rays: Union Planters Bank Building, North Beach, Miami

Flying saucers and satellites, and space age imagery: Phillips Pier 66 Hotel now Hyatt Regency, Fort Lauderdale

Floating staircases: Bacardi Building, Miami

"Bean Poles" Thin metal verticals: Manhattan Tower, Fort Lauderdale Beach

Canted walls: Castro Furniture Store and Citco Service Station, Fort Lauderdale

Undulating concrete canopies and walls: Wachovia Bank Building and Ireland's Inn, Fort Lauderdale

THE NEW SHAPE OF MOTION

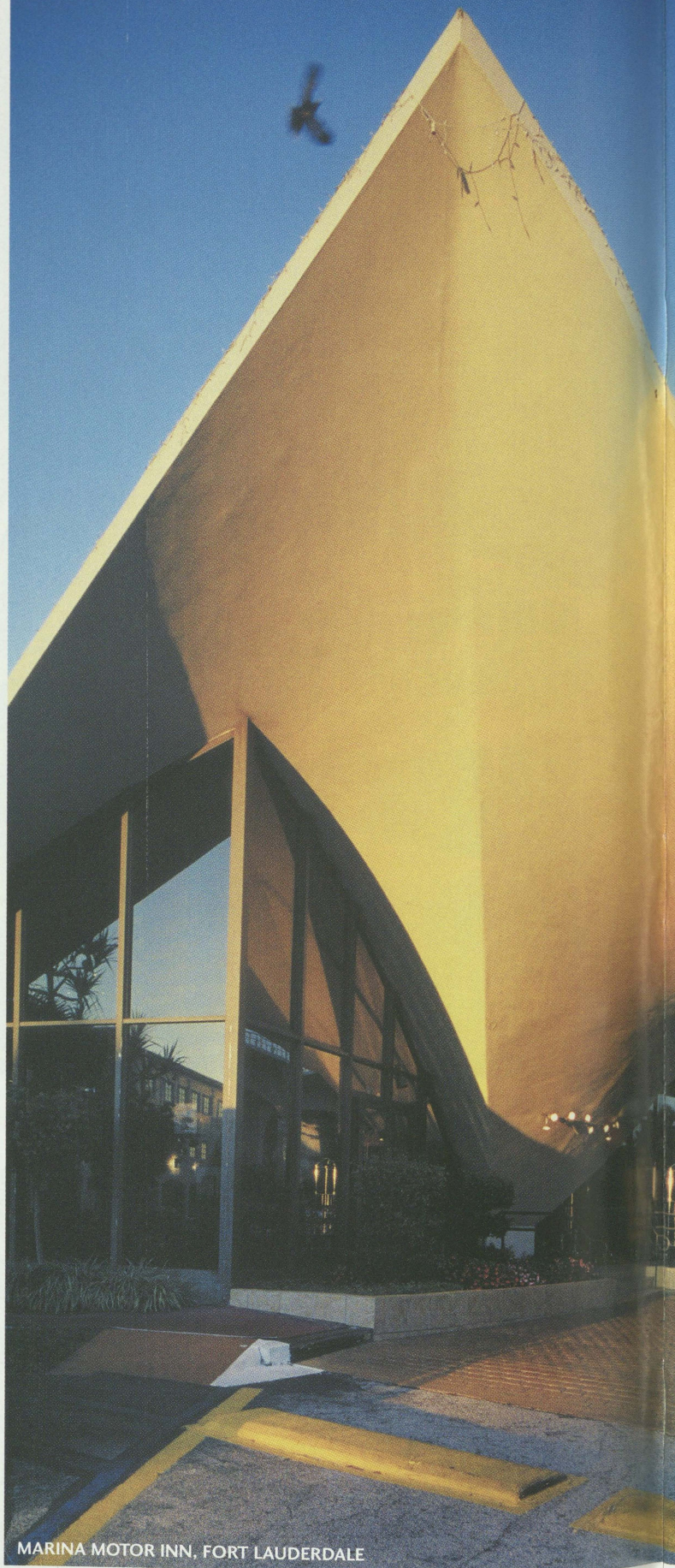
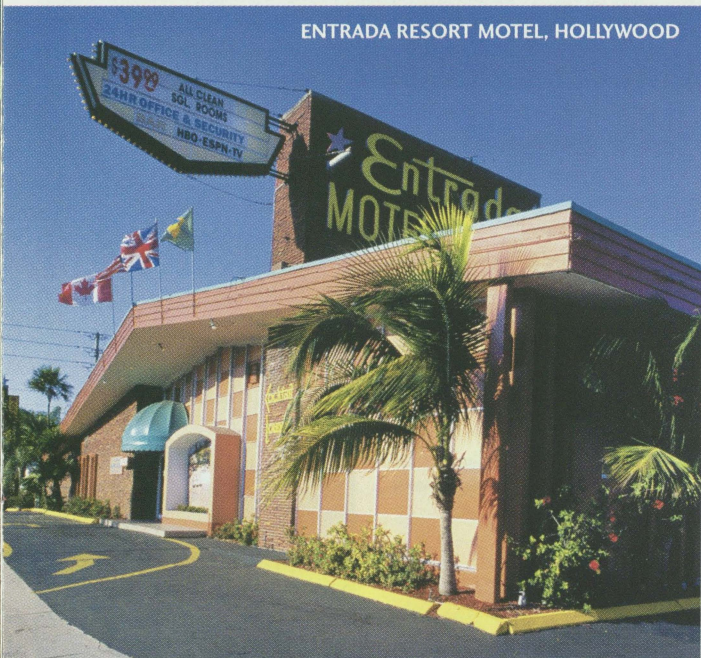


SOUTH FLORIDA

Also in Lauderdale at Charles McKirahan's Coral Cove, apartments are wrapped in floor-to-ceiling jalousie windows and surrounded by catwalks, a love letter to the climate. Other buildings by McKirahan take cues from contemporary architecture in Brazil and India. The 1959 Birch Tower, a sleek white and seafoam green 17-story-highrise on Lauderdale Beach is raised up on pylons, allowing the all important tail-finned automobile to drive right through unimpeded. Norman Giller's Diplomat Hotel in Hollywood, a 1957 seven-story masterpiece of jet age imagery (demolished) was counter-balanced on two concrete pilings.

On Miami Beach, Morris Lapidus, the foremost hotel architect of the period, created fantasy environments and theatrical spaces in which America's middle class, flush with expanding postwar incomes and optimism, could fulfill its desire for glamour, relaxed luxury and leisure. His signature forms — chevrons, beanpoles, woggles or amoeba shapes,

ENTRADA RESORT MOTEL, HOLLYWOOD



MARINA MOTOR INN, FORT LAUDERDALE

Celebrating new ways to manipulate materials, architects spread their wings and made the International Style fly

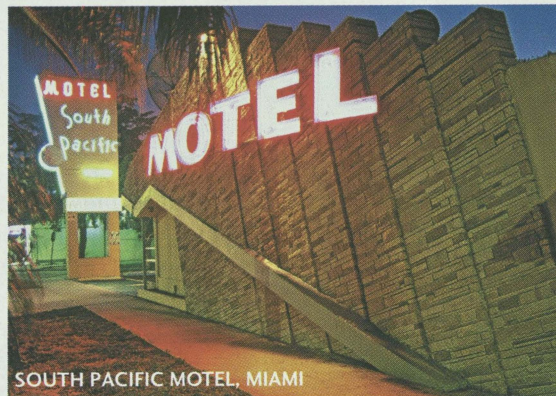
and curving walls and ceilings punctuated by cheese holes or cutouts — have become treasured icons of American postwar architectural vernacular. “These hotels are the very essence of Miami Beach’s hey-day — of fabulous Miami Beach,” says Randall Robinson, director of the North Beach Community Development Corporation and co-author of *MIMO, Miami Modern Revealed* (Chronicle Press, 2004). Robinson describes the Eden Roc (Lapidus, 1955) as, “the greatest expression of the ocean-liner influence on Miami Beach architecture.” He raves about the giant genies supporting a woggled porte cochere of the Casablanca Hotel (Roy France, 1949). Designed to impress guests arriving by car, such elaborate porte cocheres often evolved into dramatic undulating facades. “Super schlock” some called it. To others it seemed a successful theatrical hodgepodge designed to make guests feel like stars.

Most of these structures, nearing the half-century mark, are without landmark status. Without such protection they are coming down like rain. Already, many treasures have been lost: the Algiers, (Morris Lapidus, 1953) in Miami Beach; Norman Giller’s Diplomat Hotel (1957) in Hollywood, and Driftwood (1952) in Sunny Isles; Charles McKirahan’s Castaways (1958) in Sunny Isles; and in Fort Lauderdale Beach, Igor Polevitsky’s Gold Coast Hotel (1953) and 550 Breakers (1951). In March of this year, the demolition of Morris Lapidus’ Americana (1956) in Bal Harbour, and of the Ireland’s Inn in Fort Lauderdale Beach (Charles McKirahan/George Waddey, 1964) was announced.

Recognizing the vibrance and significance of South Florida’s mid-century modern architecture, and to encourage its preservation, the Broward Trust for Historic Preservation has created *Going, Going, Gone?* a photographic exhibition of Miami-Dade and Broward counties’ Mid-Century Modern architecture. The exhibit will be at the Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale from July 8 to October 30, 2005. A symposium on Mid-Century Modern architecture takes place at the Museum on July 7. 🏠



NORTH BEACH BANDSTAND, MIAMI



SOUTH PACIFIC MOTEL, MIAMI

To Learn More

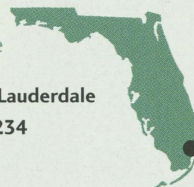
Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale
954.525.5500, ext. 234
www.moafll.org

Miami Design Preservation League
www.mdpl.org

North Beach Development Corp.
www.gonorthbeach.com

Broward Trust for Historic Preservation
www.bthp.org

Urban Arts Committee, Miami Beach
www.mimo.us



A VISIT TO ANOTHER WORLD

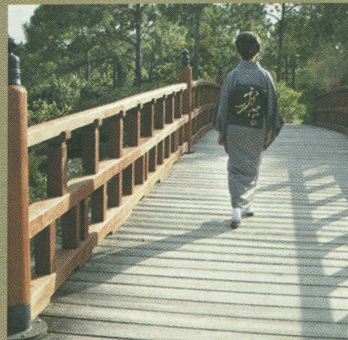
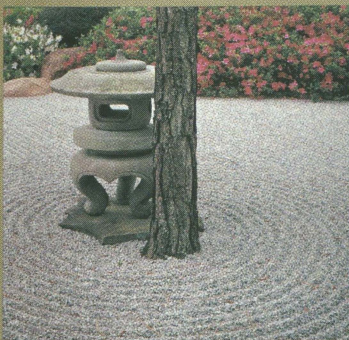


THE MORIKAMI
OFFERS A WORLD
OF NATURAL
BEAUTY AND
CULTURAL
EXPERIENCES

BY MICHELLE BROWN • PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF THE MORIKAMI MUSEUM AND JAPANESE GARDENS

Off a road in western Palm Beach County is a welcoming destination that offers eastern elegance, natural serenity and cultural beauty. For more than 25 years, the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens have served as a gateway to another world — the world of Japan.

In this South Florida oasis, many cultures come to explore one. Visitors come to see the trees pruned just so, to sample a bowl of miso soup and a cup of green tea and to dance with the Obon performers under paper lanterns. Young and old marvel at the bonsai, feed the koi fish, pound the taiko drums and explore the Yamato-kan.



THE
MORIKAMI
MUSEUM
AND
JAPANESE
GARDENS
PAY
TRIBUTE
TO GEORGE
SUKEJI
MORIKAMI'S
GIFT,
OFFERING
VISITORS A
GRACIOUS
REPRIEVE
FROM THE
BUSTLE OF
SOUTH
FLORIDA
LIFE.



Why is a Japanese park and museum in Palm Beach County, Florida? It is here that a group of young Japanese farmers created a community intended to revolutionize agriculture in Florida. In 1904, Jo Sakai, a recent graduate of New York University, returned to his homeland of Miyazu, Japan, to organize a group of pioneering farmers and lead them to what is now northern Boca Raton. Ultimately, the results of their crop experimentation were disappointing and the Yamato Colony fell far short of its goals. One by one, the families left for other parts of the United States or returned to Japan. One settler remained. His name was George Sukeji Morikami. In the mid-1970s, when George was in his 80s, he donated his land to Palm Beach County with the wish to preserve it as a park and to honor the memory of the Yamato Colony.

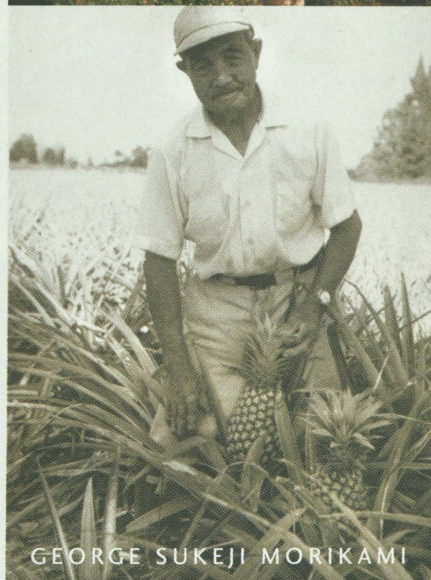
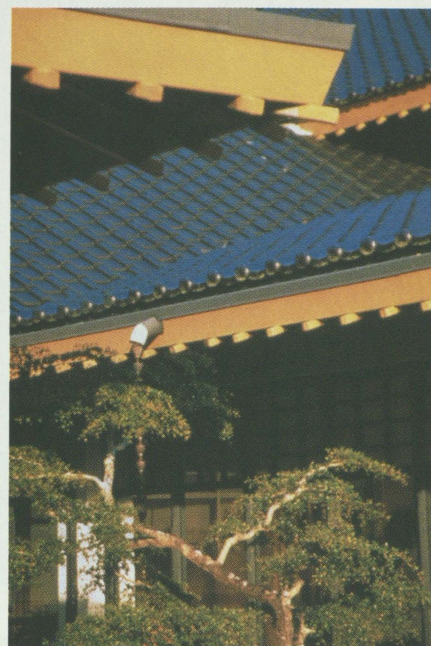
Today the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens pay tribute to his gift, offering visitors a gracious reprieve from the bustle of south Florida life, while providing a glimpse into Japanese culture, traditions and celebrations throughout the year.

Featuring six Japanese garden styles, the 16-acre Roji-en: Gardens of the Drops of Dew (the George D. and Harriet W. Cornell Japanese Gardens) is the Morikami's crown jewel, recognized as one of the top 10 Japanese gardens in Europe, North America and Australia by the *Journal of Japanese Gardening*.

The gardens surround Morikami Pond, and lead walkers approximately one mile through meandering greenery, past towering bamboo and rushing waterfalls and beside beds of carefully raked pebbles. Visitors are urged to walk slowly in order to enjoy the deliberate sculpture of the leaves, bushes, flowers and branches, which are painstakingly maintained on a daily basis by garden staff. Hoichi Kurisu, founder and president of Kurisu International, designed the gardens, which include representations of Shinden Gardens (9th-12th century), Paradise Gardens (13th-14th century), Early Rock Gardens (14th century), Late Rock Gardens (15th century), Flat Garden (16th-17th century) and Modern Romantic Gardens (19th-20th century). On select dates in the summer months, *Sushi & Strolls—Sunset Walks* allow visitors to experience Roji-en in the cooler evening hours.

The Cornell Café & Tea House overlooks Morikami Pond. Chefs Fu and Christie Chen create authentic Japanese cuisine by combining their culinary talent and Asian heritage. Diners can enjoy appetizers, teas, soups, entrees or desserts on the outside terrace that overlooks the *Roji-en* gardens. At the Seishin-an Tea House, demonstrations of sado, the calming ritual of serving tea, are performed on a regular basis.

Throughout the year, the Morikami welcomes thousands to its signature festivals and celebrations, where families and friends experience true Japanese entertainment. Perennial favorites and special guests include the thundering taiko drums of Fushu Daiko, the interactive storytelling of Kuniko Yamamoto and delicate creations of candy maker Miyuki Sugimori. In 2005, the Hatsume Fair, a celebration of spring, featured a sumo wrestling demonstration and Japanese car show.



GEORGE SUKEJI MORIKAMI





THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, THE MORIKAMI WELCOMES THOUSANDS TO ITS SIGNATURE FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS, WHERE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS EXPERIENCE TRUE JAPANESE ENTERTAINMENT.



At Children's Day in April, kids of all ages can make traditional Japanese art projects, while learning taiko drumming. In August, the Morikami welcomes back the spirits of loved ones who have passed away at the special Bon Festival. This spiritual event culminates with fireworks and lantern-floating on the pond. Lanterns are inscribed with messages to the dearly departed for a non-religious gesture of affection. In September, the Morikami invites visitors to celebrate Keiro No Hi — Respect for the Aged Day — when one shows respect to long-time contributors to society, celebrates their longevity, prays for their health, and gains greater awareness and understanding of welfare issues confronting the elderly.

Visitors ring in the New Year during Oshogatsu celebration, a traditional time of new beginnings and hope in January that is recognized with activities that all family members can enjoy. Special engagements and performances, such as koto and traditional dance concerts by featured performers, are held in the Morikami auditorium.

As a community center of learning, The Morikami offers a seasonal roster of classes on the art of bonsai, nature photography, Japanese language and orchid care. Special workshops, gallery talks, lectures, discussions, videos, films and guest presenters also cover interesting topics relating to Japan.

Inside the main gallery of The Morikami, rotating exhibitions, along with a 5,000-piece permanent collections gallery, bring alive the artistry, history and complexity of Japanese culture. Senior Curator Tom Gregersen selects from a wide range of creative perspectives to introduce west to east.

The current exhibit, *Florigami: Folded Images of Florida's Hidden Nature* by Michael LaFosse, is a completely original, specially-designed exhibit celebrating Florida's wildlife and plant life in origami sculptures. For more than a year, LaFosse, an origami master and a biologist by training, worked to create 25 original origami paper sculptures in his Origamido studio in Massachusetts. The project is a collaboration between The Morikami and LaFosse, and is funded by a one-year, \$35,000 Palm Beach County Cultural Council Category A "Artist-in-Residency" grant.

Running concurrently through September 2005 is *The Emperor was My Neighbor: Japanese Folk Art from the Collection of Mitzie Verne*. This exhibit showcases more than 100 Japanese folkart objects from the Verne Collection, collected over the period of one half century. Included are paintings, woodblock prints, stencil-dyed works on paper and fabric and numerous folk toys. ㊦

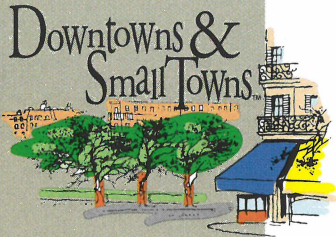


To Learn More

Visit The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens at 4000 Morikami Park Road, Delray Beach. Phone 561.495.0233 or visit www.morikami.org



BY KERRI L. POST • PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY HOLLYWOOD OFFICE OF TOURISM



For today's travelers who want to "go where the locals go," and seek vacation experiences that provide an authentic sense of place, VISIT FLORIDA's innovative new *Downtowns & Small Towns* tourism marketing program spotlights the charming, vibrant and revitalized downtowns and small towns of Florida. Downtown Hollywood offers a blend of the chic and unique, and with its safe and pedestrian-friendly area, small town ambiance and historic architecture, exemplifies the *Downtowns & Small Towns* concept.

Historic yet contemporary, casual and cosmopolitan, Hollywood, Florida has been a magnet for a colorful variety of cultures since its founding in the 1920s. Nestled between Ft. Lauderdale and Miami, the city today serves as the headquarters of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and clearly has a star-quality of its own. Along Hollywood's brick-paved walkways and tree-canopied downtown is a

H O O R A Y F O R D O W N

F L O R I D A ' S H O L L Y W O O D H A S A



thriving cultural, shopping, and dining district, where visitors can enjoy chic and sophisticated restaurants and clubs while benefiting from the tight-knit community and old-world feel.

The downtown Hollywood District features an eclectic mix of boutiques, diverse cafes and critically acclaimed international restaurants, with unique nightlife ranging from jazz performances to sports bars, wine and sidewalk cafes in a romantic setting. With more than 56 restaurants, cafes, and nightclubs, it offers cuisine to suit every taste and budget, and clubs catering to all age groups and styles. The Holly Trolley connects the beaches and hotels to the thriving downtown. And now, downtown Hollywood is a wi-fi "hot spot". Visitors and residents alike enjoy free wireless Internet access anywhere in downtown Hollywood.



TOWN HOLLYWOOD!

STAR-QUALITY OF ITS OWN

Hollywood Young Circle, in the center of downtown, is being transformed into The ArtsPark with assistance from the city, county, and the downtown Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA). Features will include a new cultural arts building with studio spaces, an art gallery, classroom space, a dance studio and a "black box" theater. A state-of-the-art amphitheater will be constructed on the building's west side. Coming soon, a new fountain, walkway promenades, and a children's play area with an interactive fountain will provide year-round outdoor fun.

More than two dozen artists produce and sell their works in downtown Hollywood, giving the streets a constant buzz. The popular "Artwalk" takes place on the third Saturday of each month from 7 to 10 p.m. The city hosts a wide range of seasonal events, including the Hot Winter Fest and Ocean Dance. This year's International Arts & Music Festival takes place October 15 and 16, and on October 22, the "Chicago Blues on Harrison Street" concert features Johnny Winter. For events information visit www.downtownhollywood.com.

This summer, the city will host the 38th Annual Florida Governor's Conference on Tourism with the theme, "Beyond the Blue Horizon," August 14 to 16 at the Westin Diplomat Resort & Spa. This premiere Florida tourism industry event attracts more than 1,000 industry leaders from around the Sunshine State and provides the best networking, professional development and marketplace opportunity for tourism industry professionals.

Just 30 miles north of Hollywood, in Delray Beach, VISIT FLORIDA, in conjunction with the Florida Department of State will host a Downtowns & Small Towns Forum — an educational event for the tourism industry, the arts and cultural community, economic development and redevelopment organizations, and heritage and preservation/conservation organizations. This two-and-a-half-day event will take place October 13 to 15, and provide Florida cities an interactive opportunity to learn first-hand, through workshops and on-site mobile-labs, how to develop and market their downtowns. For information on the Governor's Conference on Tourism or the Downtowns & Small Towns Forum visit www.VISITFLORIDA.org. 🏠



To Learn More

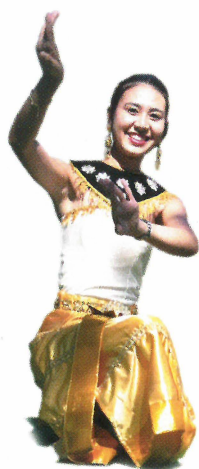
Contact the Hollywood Office of Tourism (HOT) at the Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce at 954.923.4000 or 800.231.5562 or www.visithollywood.org

This summer, explore your own "backyard." Vacation close to home. Visit Florida! www.VISITFLORIDA.com. VISIT FLORIDA is the state's official source for travel planning.



BY TINA BUCUVALAS

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY
FLORIDA FOLKLIFE PROGRAM,
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE



New
Communities
of Central
Florida
Southeast
Asian
Artists





In comparison with many other regions of the country, Florida's population is new and constantly changing. While some can trace a long family lineage here, most Floridians have arrived within the last 50 years. According to the 2000 census, only 33% of the population was born in the state and 16.7% were born in a foreign country. • In 2000, Asian Americans made up 1.7% of Florida's population. Most (Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian, Thai) experienced growth rates exceeding 100% since 1990. The 2000 census put Florida's statewide Vietnamese population at more than 37,000, Cambodian more than 3,000, Laotian more than 4,000, and Thai at almost 9,000. • Many Southeast Asians began to settle in Florida because of political problems in their homelands exacerbated by the Vietnam war. Today, significant communities exist in the Orlando/Sanford and Tampa/St. Petersburg areas.



Florida's semi-tropical climate allowed some to continue traditional agriculture and fishing practices though many have established businesses. In rural areas, Asian-owned veg-

etable farms produce crops of tropical fruits and vegetables destined for local southeast Asian consumers as well as for national distribution. Florida's climate has also facilitated the creation of several beautiful Buddhist temple complexes, often sited next to rivers, in which visitors feel that they have stepped in to Laos or Thailand.

blessings and good wishes, and not to be removed for at least three days.

As in most Asian countries, both classical and folk dance and music have been passed down through generations. Classical music was developed for royal ceremonies and the classical dance-dramas presented in the court. Classical Laotian dance derives largely from India, though there are several other cultural influences.



Laos

Stretching from the fertile Mekong River valley lowlands to the rugged Annamite highlands, Laos is the least known and developed of the three former French Indochinese nations. Laotian traditional culture has been heavily influenced by Khmer, Vietnamese and Thai elements.

Baci ceremonies are held to celebrate special events and occasions such as birth, marriage, welcoming a guest and homecomings. This ritual creates an important social and family bond, is central to Laotian culture, and is believed to predate Buddhism. *Baci* are usually conducted by a respected elder. During the ceremony there is a central arrangement of flowers with white cotton strings, banana leaves and candles. The master of ceremonies chants in Lao and Pali, calling upon spirits and deities. The white threads are tied around the wrists of guests with

Thailand



Thailand possesses a beautiful tropical environment, a complex history, a rich array of traditional arts, and people who are known throughout the world for their friendliness and courtesy. Today Thailand remains a prosperous and stable monarchy, which has adapted to western ways while maintaining the integrity of its culture.

One of the most beautiful and popular Thai celebrations is *Loy Krathong*, held during the full moon of the last lunar month, which corresponds with our November. People create *krathongs*, small floats made from banana leaves or paper in the

shape of a lotus. During the nights of the festival, people make wishes for good luck in the coming year, then float the *krathongs* down rivers. The celebration often includes special songs and dance.

Buddhism has had an important influence on Thai culture since ancient times, fostering a philosophy of simplicity and moderation. The temple served as the spiritual and educational center of the village, and today remains the core of Thai diaspora communities. Numerous beautiful Buddhist temples are scattered throughout Florida. Wat Florida Dhammaram in Kissimmee includes many elaborate buildings based on Thai temples or Indian buildings associated with Buddha's life. The main temple structure is flanked by two 16-foot *yakkha* giants designed and built by Prayong Deeying (Ocoee) in 1999-2001. The statues represent two giants considered guardians of the Buddhist faithful. A native of Thailand, Deeying is a former art teacher and now a professional artist who designs, creates, and maintains artifacts and structures for Walt Disney World. He volunteered his skills to Wat Florida Dhammaram to create the remarkable temple statues.



COURTESY OF ANDRE BUI

Page 18 left: Dancer at Taste of Thailand Festival, Wat Dhammaram, Kissimmee; right: Giant *yakkha* statue by Prayong Deeying guards Wat Florida Dhammaram Buddhist temple, Kissimmee. Page 19 left and right: Khamphanh Insouta making *phounmaley* necklaces for Laotian dancers. This page left to right: Andrew Komany, who conducts the Laotian *baci* ceremony, performing a village-style boxing dance; Jiratchaya Tapanya holding Thai *krathong* that she created; Andre and Danvinh Bui performing Vietnamese opera, Orlando.

Vietnam

After the Vietnam War ended in 1975, many Vietnamese sought refuge in the United States. Central Florida was a destination for many because of good economic opportunities and a climate similar to their homeland. Orlando's Vietnamese community has become the largest and most prominent Asian American group in central Florida. Florida's Vietnamese have experienced great social and economic growth by combining their traditional values with American ones.

Vietnamese musical traditions are rich and varied, spanning court music, opera, folk songs from the villages and provinces, and contemporary westernized music. There are several forms of Vietnamese opera, which often rely on historical themes, legends or folktales for plot, and feature stock characters, elaborate costumes, and stylized makeup. The type of opera usually performed at events in Orlando is called *vong co*, which means "nostalgia for the past." This form draws upon the folk music of south Vietnam, and often deals with themes such as love of country, thinking about one's family, or home-

sickness. Orlando musicians play several instruments in opera ensembles. One of the most popular for opera is the *luc buyen cam*, a modified guitar with raised frets and a scalloped fretboard, which allows the musician to produce the bending ornamentation essential to Vietnamese traditional music. ♪

COURTESY OF ANDRE BUI



Top: Natasha, Vanessa, Danvinh, and Christina Bui dressed in northern Vietnamese traditional clothing.
Bottom: Vietnamese New Year's Day festivities at the Central Florida fairgrounds, Orlando.

To Learn More

Visit Florida's Buddhist temples:

KISSIMMEE – Wat Florida Dhammaram/Thai Buddhist temple. 2005 Taste of Thailand festival, October 2. 2421 Old Vineland Road, phone 407.397.9552, or visit <http://www.watflorida.org/>
TAMPA – Wat Mongkolratanaram/Thai Buddhist temple. The weekly Sunday market offers food, beverages, gifts and groceries. 5306 Palm River Road, phone 813.621.1669, or visit <http://www.wattampa.iirt.net/tampa/>

Vietnamese New Year celebrations are held at the Central Florida Fairgrounds in late January or early February. 4603 W. Colonial Drive Orlando, 407.295.3247, or visit www.centralfloridafair.com/expo/calendar.htm

Southeast Asian growers sell fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs Saturdays and Sundays in Pinellas Park at the farmers market at Wagon Wheel Flea Market, 7801 Park Boulevard.



MIXED MEDIA

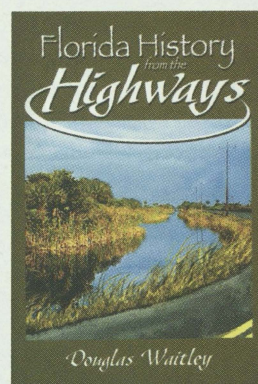
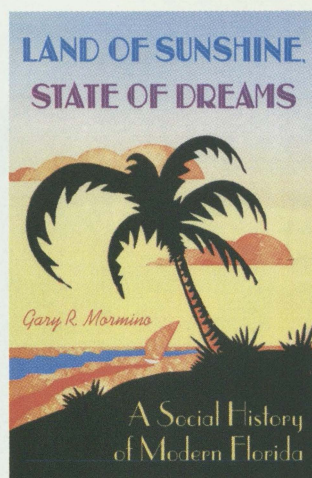
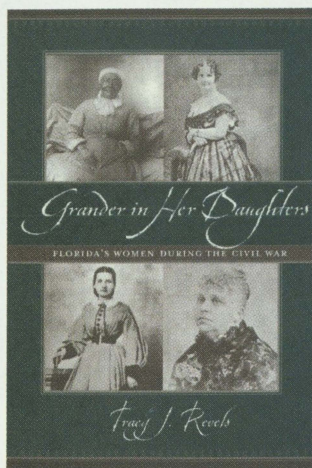
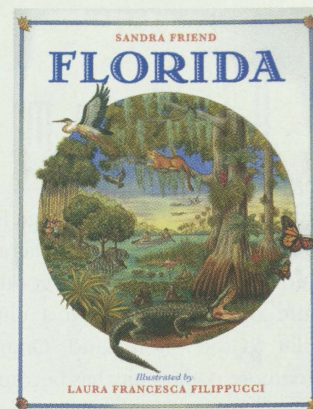
IN PRINT

A SAMPLING OF NEW FLORIDA TITLES

In the beautifully illustrated **FLORIDA** (Charlesbridge Publishing) author Sandra Friend and illustrator Laura Francesca Filippucci take young readers on a colorful and informative tour of the state, highlighting Florida's environment, history, and popular attractions and providing a handy locator map and resources for further reading.

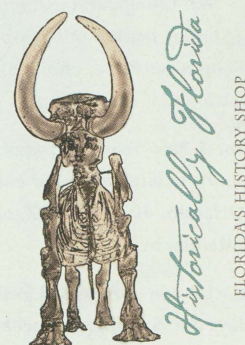
• **GRANDER IN HER DAUGHTERS: FLORIDA'S WOMEN DURING THE CIVIL WAR** by Tracy J. Revels (University of South Carolina Press) recounts the experiences of wives and widows, black female slaves and their plantation mistresses, Unionists and secessionists. Using diaries, letters and other primary sources, Revels examines the challenges women faced on Florida's Civil War homefront. • Doris Weatherford presents a broader perspective of women's experience in **REAL WOMEN OF TAMPA & HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY FROM PREHISTORY TO THE MILLENNIUM** (University of Tampa Press).

Weatherford's comprehensive historical review of the roles women have played in the development of Tampa and Hillsborough County begins with Ulela, "Florida's Pocahantas," and concludes with the achievements of women as the county entered the 21st century. • From imperial outpost to tourist empires, the story of Florida is one of astonishing growth. **LAND OF SUNSHINE, STATE OF DREAMS: A SOCIAL HISTORY OF MODERN FLORIDA** (University Press of Florida) by historian Gary Mormino examines the great social, cultural and economic forces driving Florida's continual transformation. • Author Douglas Waitley follows his two volume tour of the backroads of Florida with another comprehensive travelers guide, **FLORIDA HISTORY FROM THE HIGHWAYS** (Pineapple Press). This volume provides a series of well organized excursions into the history of Florida from its cities and major highways.



ONLINE: ON FLORIDA HISTORY ITEMS

www.floridashistoryshop.com is the Web site of Florida's History Shop, offering Florida-themed merchandise, Native American and folk crafts created by Florida artisans, a large and diverse selection of Florida titles, children's books and toys, exceptional gifts, state seal merchandise and Florida-made gourmet products. In Tallahassee, shop for these and other Florida related items at Florida's History Shops in the Museum of Florida History, Old Florida Capitol, and new Capitol building, operated by Friends of Historic Properties and Museums, Inc. phone 850.245.6396.



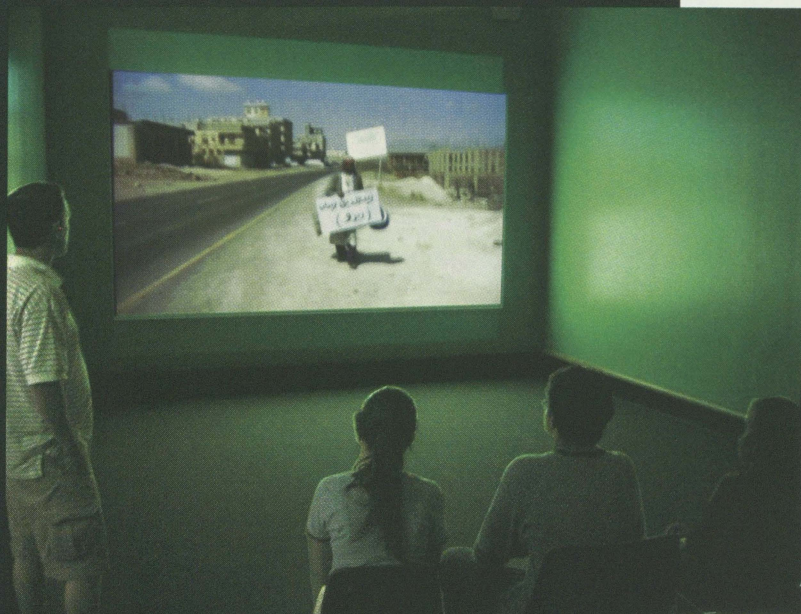
ART SCENE

TRACES (OF THE AVANT GARDE): A NEW COMMISSION GALLERY

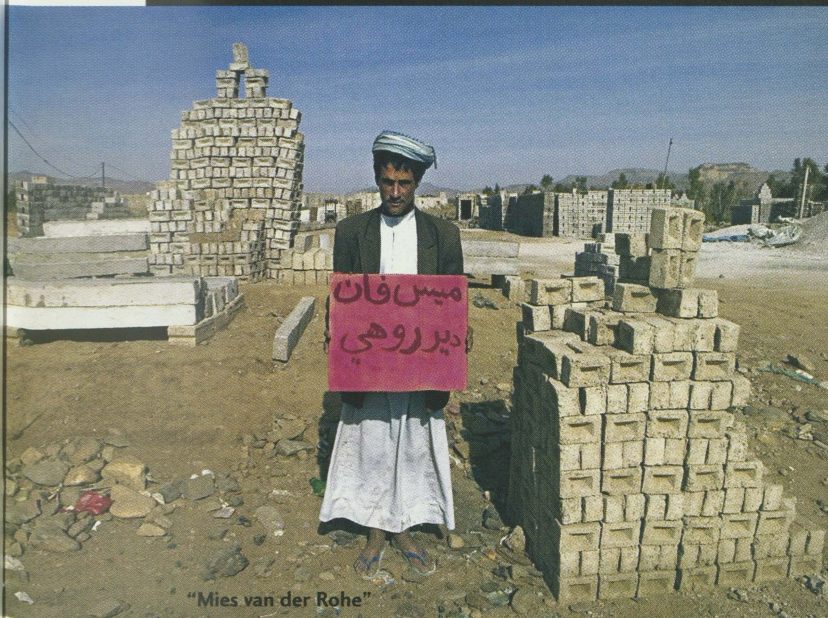
In a singularly self-affirming move, the Salvador Dali Museum in St. Petersburg recently opened a newly created space within its galleries that explores the influence of Dali on present-day artists as they reinterpret their surrealist roots. TRACES (of the avant garde): A New commission Gallery provides for the display of commissioned new works from emerging artists, and amplifies the dialogue among the artworks displayed in the museum, extending the role of the museum as a forum for new artworks to be displayed alongside their ideological predecessor. What was once a static homage to Dali is now an exploration of the persistence of his memory.

The gallery opened in February with *Arabian Nights*, a video installation by the celebrated Catalan artist Jordi Colomer. *Arabian Nights* was co-produced with the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, and will be presented in Madrid in the fall of 2005. Over a two-year period, the gallery will continue to introduce commissioned works by emerging artists to the museum's collection.

The Salvador Dalí Museum is located at 1000 Third Street South, St. Petersburg. For more information call: 727.823.3767 or visit www.salvadoralimuseum.org.



SERGI OLIVARES/DALI MUSEUM



"Mies van der Rohe"



ART IN
UNFAMILIAR PLACES

PHOTOS: ROGER WOLF

ART IN PARKING SPACES
PORT CANAVERAL

Eight gigantic murals depicting Florida shore birds and marine life adorn a six-level parking garage at Port Canaveral, thanks to a partnership between the Canaveral Port Authority and the Brevard Cultural Alliance. The installation, nicknamed "Art in Parking Spaces" is the county's largest public art display. The 60,000-square-foot garage, adjacent to Cruise Terminal 9/10 on the Port's north side, was built to accommodate the additional automobiles of passengers sailing on the superliners, *Carnival Glory* and Royal Caribbean International's *Mariner of the Seas*.

Melbourne artist Margo McKnight created the artwork that was transferred to the giant fabric panels, which measure 68 feet by 50.4 feet. The panels, constructed by Sundance Awnings of Orlando, were created by transferring a computer file of McKnight's artwork onto panels of a special 70-inch-wide fabric, produced in France, that are welded together with radio frequency to create the large murals. Apparently solid, the panels are permeable to light and wind.



CALENDAR

SUMMER
2005

Through July 13 Gainesville

Ancient Bronzes of the Asian Grasslands. Elaborately decorated personal items of the steppe peoples who traveled during the late second and first millennia B.C.E. along the Silk Route in Asia. Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art. (352) 392-9826

Through July 17 Lakeland

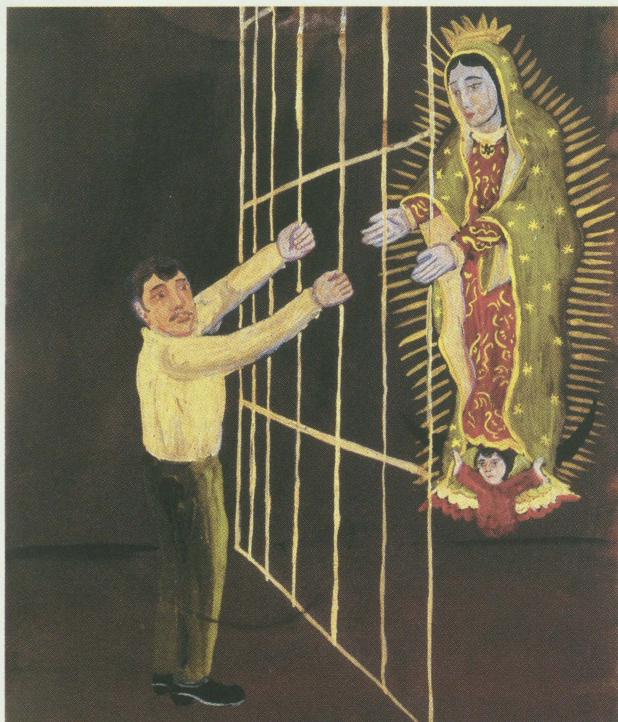
Günter Wirth: Repositioning Reality. A selection of 20 of the German artist's prints and mixed media works. Polk Museum of Art (863) 699-7743

Through July 31 Sarasota

Duane Hanson: Portraits from the Heartland. 24 sculptures are featured in this first large-scale exhibition to focus primarily on Hanson's midwestern upbringing. The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art. (941) 359-5700

Through July 31 Orlando

Patterns of Life: Bold & Powerful Ndebele Art of South Africa. 75 objects including blankets beaded with thousands of glass beads. Orlando Museum of Art. (407) 896-4231



Through July 31 Naples

Modern Mexican Masters. Includes two newly donated 1922 paintings by Jean Charlot along with works by Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, David Alfaro Siqueiros, Rufino Tamayo, Miguel Covarrubias, Francisco Zúñiga and others. Naples Museum of Art. (239) 597-1900 or (800) 597-1900

Through August 1 Orlando

Getting the Job Done: A Retrospective of Handheld Tools. Orange County Regional History Center. (407) 836-8500

Through September 4 West Palm Beach

Site Seeing: Photographic Excursions in Tourism. Over 250 photographs and artifacts, including early travel photography from the 1840s, tourist guides, postcards and contemporary works of art. Norton Museum of Art. (561) 832-5196, ext. 1183

Through September 5 Tallahassee

Florida's Got the Blues! The pioneering efforts of Florida's blues performers. Museum of Florida History Main Gallery. (850) 245-6400

Through September 11 Davie

Adventures with Clifford The Big Red Dog. Exhibit offers "paws-on"

adventures that reinforce "Clifford's Big Ideas"—ten simple lessons designed to help young children navigate their world. Young at Art Children's Museum. (954) 424-0085, ext. 17

Through September 18 Delray Beach

Florigami: Folded Images of Florida's Hidden Nature by Michael LaFosse. 25 original paper sculptures mix Japanese culture with ecology. Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens. (561) 495-0233

Through October 30 Daytona Beach

Bodies of Work: The Human Figure in Graphic Art. 54 works from the MOAS permanent collection, including Salvador Dali, Frederic Remington, Rene Magritte, Modigliani, Winslow Homer and Henri Matisse. Museum of Arts and Sciences. (386) 255-0285

Through December 31 St. Augustine

Bobby Jones: A Salute to the Grand Slam. Exhibit celebrates the 75th anniversary of Jones' Grand Slam win, career and achievements. The World Golf Hall of Fame at the World Golf Village. (904) 904-4123

Through January 1, 2006 Tallahassee

Tutankhamen: Wonderful Things from the Pharaoh's Tomb. Mary Broman Museum of Art and Science. (850) 513-0700

July 1-September 3 St. Augustine

Changing of the Guard at Government House. Friday and Saturday evenings at 7 p.m. Downtown Plaza. (904) 825-1004, Ext. 107

July 1-2 Pensacola

Blue Angels Air Show. Rehearsal followed by main show. (850) 932-1500 or www.VisitPensacola.com

July 1-2 Key West

African American Festival. Key West and Caribbean soul food, African art, reggae and gospel music. (305) 295-7184 or (305) 747-4544

July 4 Milton

July 4 Riverfest. (850) 623-2339

Modern Mexican Masters.

Naples Museum of Art, Naples



Duane Hanson: Portraits from the Heartland. The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota

July 4 Sopchoppy

Downtown parade, music, and fireworks on the river. (850) 962-4611

July 4 Jacksonville

Libertyfest. Music and fireworks. Sea Walk Pavilion. (904) 247-6100

July 4 West Palm Beach

Fourth on Flagler. Three entertainment stages, interactive kids area, street performers, fireworks. (561) 659-8007

July 8 Fort Lauderdale

Going, Going, Gone? Mid-Century Modern Architecture in South Florida. Photographs by Robin Hill of 80 South Florida structures document examples of regional architecture. Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale. 954-525-5500

July 9 Looe Key

AquaCulture: Music and Art in the Key of Sea. 21st annual Lower Keys Underwater Music Festival, a sub-sea songfest south of Big Pine Key. WCNK 98.7 Conch FM, broadcasts the concert from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. An underwater exhibition showcases "new wave" art. Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce. 1 (800) 872-3722

July 9-10 West Palm Beach

Winter in July. Enjoy over 40 tons of snow, animal encounters, storytelling, face painting and tattoos, arts and crafts, and games with winter themes. Palm Beach Zoo. (561) 533-0887

CALENDAR

July 13 – 17

Miami Beach

The American Black Film Festival – Five day retreat and international film market featuring independent films, Hollywood premieres, industry panels, workshops and the ABFF Awards ceremony. (212) 966-2411 or www.abff.com

July 15-August

Ormond Beach

Illustrators Look at Life. Political and environmental cartoons by Bruce Beattie of the *Daytona Beach News-Journal* and illustrator Steve McLachlin. Ormond Memorial Art Museum and Gardens. (386) 676-3347

Florida's Got the Blues!

Museum of Florida History

Main Gallery, Tallahassee



July 15-30

Daytona Beach

2005 Florida International Festival. A 16-day festival with over 80 events. Music, dance, family entertainment, and the London Symphony Orchestra's final stop in a year of 100th anniversary celebrations. (386) 257-7790

July 16-17

Cape Coral

Mangomania. Tropical fruit festival featuring food and fun for all ages. Chamber of Commerce. (239) 283-4842

July 17

Jacksonville

Smooth Sounds of Hot Summer Nights. Sea Walk Pavilion. (904) 247-6100

July 24

DeLand

13th Annual Central Florida Railroad Show. Volusia County Fairgrounds. (407) 656-5056

July 28

Boca Raton

Farewell to Summer Party. Boca Raton Public Library. (561) 393-7968

July 29-August 7

AquaCulture: Music and Art in the

Key of Sea. Lower Keys Chamber

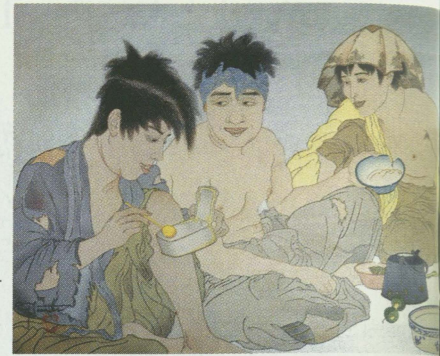
of Commerce, Looe Key



Bodies of Work: The Human

Figure in Graphic Art.

Museum of Arts and Sciences, Daytona Beach



Key West

Key West Summer Food & Wine Festival. Ten days of gourmet wine dinners and classes, dessert tastings, cocktail galas and island-style feasts. Key West Food & Wine Association. (305) 296-6909 or info@kwrba.com

August 6-7

St. Augustine

Summer Sizzler Beach Fest. Catamaran racing, live music, sand-sculpting demonstrations and kite flying. (904) 808-8544

August 10-September 4

Jacksonville

One Mo' Time. A story of old-time 1920s Black Vaudeville. Alhambra Dinner Theater. (904) 641-1212

August 13

Boca Raton

Family Fruit Fest, "Pansies and Posies" X-Travaganza. Flowers and plant exhibits, mini-garden crafts for kids, tropical treats, woodturners, master gardener clinics, book signings. Sanborn Square. (561) 393-7806

August 13

Delray Beach

Bon Festival. Japan's traditional three-day holiday honoring ancestors. Taiko drum performances, Japanese folk dancing, and a street fair. Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens. (561) 495-0233

August 13-October 30

Orlando

M.C. Escher: Rhythm of Illusion. More than 80 prints and drawings from the 1920s through the 1960s. Orlando Museum of Art. (407) 896-4231

August 14-16

Hollywood

Beyond the Blue Horizon — The 38th Annual Governor's Conference on Tourism. VISIT FLORIDA (850) 488-5607 ext. 322

August 27-28

St. Augustine

7th Annual San Sebastian Harvest Festival & Grape Stomp. Grape Stomping competitions, tours and wine tasting. 1-888-352-9463 or (904) 826-1594

September – Each Thursday

Mexico Beach

Music Thursday. 7:00 p.m. at Sunset Park. 1-888-723-2546

September 2-October 22

Pensacola

Lunchbox Memories: A Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition. Pensacola Museum of Art. (850) 432-6247

September 3

St. Augustine

St. Augustine 440th Birthday Celebration. Reenactment of the 1565 landing of city founder, Pedro Menendez de Aviles at the Mission of Nombre de Dios. Mass and program follow. City of St. Augustine. (904) 825-1004

September 3-5

Tarpon Springs

LaborFest on the Sponge Docks. Artists, entertainment and games. (727) 937-3514

September 6 - 27

Seaside

Sunset serenade series. Tuesday evenings, 7-9 p.m. Seaside Amphitheater. (850) 231-5424

September 10-11

Jacksonville

34th Riverside Arts Festival. Over 140 fine artists and crafts; hands-on children's art activities, free bus tour of historic district. (904) 389-2449

September 15-October 30

Tallahassee

24th Annual Capital City Quilt Show. Museum of Florida History. (850) 245-6400

September 23-25

Pensacola

28th Annual Pensacola Seafood Festival. Fountain Park stage at the Seville Square Gazebo. (850) 433-6512

September 25

Dunedin

Dunedin Wines and the Blues. Hundreds of varieties of wine, juried art show, live music and children's activities. (727) 733-3197

ON A ROAD
LESS TRAVELED

■ MAVYNEE BETSCH • AMERICAN BEACH ■

In 1935 on Florida's north Atlantic coast, American Beach was established as a resort community by the Afro-American Insurance Company. At a time when blacks were excluded from most beaches in Florida, the resort became a major vacation destination for African Americans from across the Southeast. Members of the black elite owned property there, and well-known black entertainers performed there. With the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the end of segregation, American Beach began to experience a decline as black vacationers took advantage of their ability to go elsewhere.

Abraham Lincoln Lewis and six other founders created the Afro-American Insurance Company, Florida's first African American insurance company, in 1901. As company president from 1919 until his death in 1947, A.L. Lewis became Florida's first black millionaire. Today his flamboyant great-granddaughter, MaVynnee Betsch, is recognized as the matriarch of American Beach. She is a persistent, passionate and effective advocate for the preservation of the historic community and its natural resources. Known as the "Beach Lady," the striking 70-year-old Betsch studied at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and performed in Europe as a professional opera singer before returning to live on the shores of American Beach in the 1970s.

In 2002, the American Beach Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Preservation efforts then focused on protecting American Beach's "NaNa," one of the tallest and the last undeveloped, untouched dune systems in Florida. When the Amelia Island Plantation Resort donated the parcel, including the 60-foot-tall sand dune, Congressional legislation was initiated to include the acreage in the National Park's Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. In October 2004, President Bush signed the legislation into law. With the preservation of "NaNa," the American Beach Property Owners Association and the A.L. Lewis Historical Society are focusing attention on the restoration of the historic Rendezvous Club property, and planning to include exhibits on the history of American Beach.

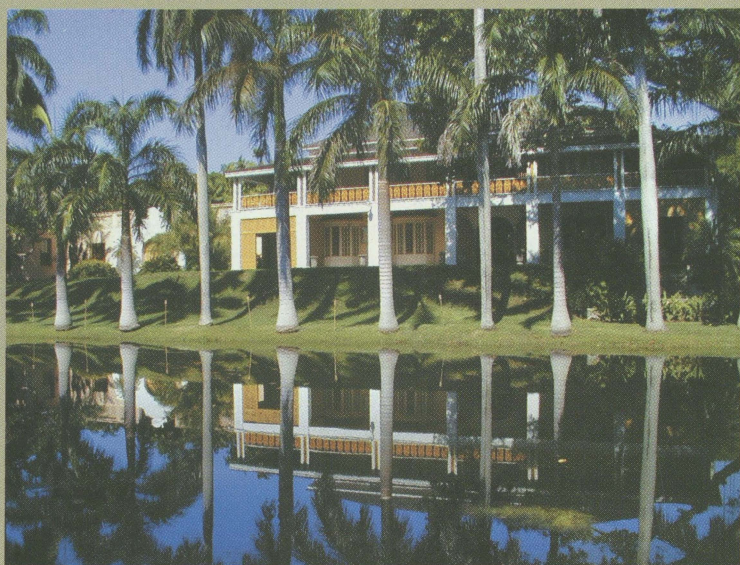
The story of MaVynnee Betsch is featured in the *Nowhere Productions* documentary, "The Beach Lady." Preview screenings of the film were held in Jacksonville prior to Super Bowl XXXIX and in May at the Jacksonville Film Festival. For more information visit www.nowhereathens.com.

American Beach is located on Amelia Island, approximately 40 miles north of Jacksonville.

IN UPCOMING ISSUES...

■ BONNET HOUSE MUSEUM & GARDENS FORT LAUDERDALE

Bonnet House Museum & Gardens is one of Florida's most unique historic estates. The 35-acre property, located between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway, is one of the few remnants of what was once a coastal wilderness in Broward County. Construction began in 1920 on this home, designed in the Caribbean-plantation style by artist, designer and self-taught architect, Frederic Clay Bartlett. The creativity of Frederic and Evelyn Bartlett is revealed in their designs for the buildings, artwork and furnishings. The property is owned by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and open to the public for tours year-round.



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